SEMESTER CLASSES
PAGE 4

STUDENT ART SHOWS
PAGE 6 & 7

GRADUATES
PAGE 9

Home of the Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

SUMMER 2025 FREE VOLUME 47 NUMBER 5

Opportunities Start Here!

Mat-Su College summer classes are perfect for you if...

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- ☐ You love learning and improving your life.

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Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

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Spring 2025 Student Showcase Winners!

Amber Godin

Lindsey Jensen

Kenny Sparks & Justice Darby

Maddox Salmans

Story on Page 2

Remember The Reason

By Ashley Mortrud

Whether you have seen a musical, glanced at it while walking to class, or been in a production, it is hard to miss the Glenn Massay Theater. Opened on February 7th, in 2015, the Glenn Massay can hold over 500 audience members and has provided the Valley with endless entertainment since its inception. From extravagant musical performances to comforting, personal ceremonies, this theater welcomes all to a heartwarming atmosphere.

I have been going to shows ever since I moved to the Valley 8 years ago, and I have been grateful to be closer to it since I've started taking classes and working for the college. I would offer help now and then or lend a hand when it came to set-building or cleaning, and I somehow slowly got immersed in the community.

Being part of the crew at the theater has made me gain so much respect

See **REMEMBER** *page 5*

Upcoming events:

May 16: MSC Booth at the Palmer Friday Fling

May 19: Summer classes begin (10-week session and 1st 5-week session).

May 20: Faculty approval needed to add classes.

May 26: Memorial day. Campus closed. No classes.

May 27: Add/drop deadline for 10-week session and 1st 5-week session.

June 7 & 21: Music in the Park - Wasilla.

June 13 & 14 : Colony Days Booth - Palmer.

June 26: 2nd 5-week session begins.

June 27: Grades available in UAOnline for 1st 5-week session.

June 29: Stuff the Bus.

July 3-5: Independance Day! Campus closed.

July 7: Add/drop deadline for 2nd 5-week session.

July 25: Apply for Summer Graduation

August 7: Grades available in UAOnline

August 25: Fall classes begin.

September 5: Add/drop deadline.

October 27: Spring 2026 classes viewable in UAOnline.

All summer long: Look for the College booth at your favorite summer events like the Wasilla Community Block Party, the Alaska State Fair and the Highland Games!

WELCOME TO THE ROARING 20's

Anastasiia Kalmykova dressed to the nines for Student Government sponsored dance.

More photos and information about this year's Roaring 20's dance on page 3.

INTRO TO NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

NEW COURSE

Semester courses lists on page 4

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Student Government 3
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Graduates 9
Puzzles 10

Mat-Su College Alaska State Fair Cabin

- Interview with Instructor Jim Hitchcock by reporter Braden Quade.

First printed by the *Mat-Su Monitor* October 2024

Jim Hitchcock

By Braden Quade

The Mat-Su Monitor presents an interview with Jim Hitchcock, former adjunct professor at the Mat-Su College.

He is also known for having built the Mat-Su College cabin at the Alaska State Fair.

Monitor: What class did you teach at the Mat-Su college?

J.H. : I had a log cabin building class at the Mat-Su College. In this class, the students would learn how to make a log cabin from scratch, from local Alaskan wood.

Jim Hitchcock in front of the sign on the MSC cabin at the 2023 Alaska State Fair.

Monitor: That sounds like a pretty amazing class. It is quite useful as well! How long did you teach this class?

See **FAIR CABIN** *page 11*

Professor Dr. Bernard wins Selkregg Award

By Jett Camm

Our own Professor Dr. Jennifer Bernard has won UAA's 2025 Selkregg Award. The Selkregg Community Engagement Service Learning Award is a $5,000 dollar award given to UAA faculty who do "community engaged research, creative activity, and course-based service-learning projects" that benefit students and the Alaska community at large.

Professor Dr. Bernard's award-winning work is a Tenant Success Workshop, which aims to teach the formerly incarcerated how to "navigate private rental markets and successfully locate permanent housing." The expectation is that these skills will reduce homelessness and recidivism.

Dr. Jennifer Bernard
Assist. Professor of General Business

Partnering with Dr. Bernard and her students are the community partners NeighborWorks Alaska, Anchorage Reentry Coalition, the Housing to Home Referral Network.

Congratulations are in order for Skyla Wilson. She is the winner of the 2025 Mat-Su College Sticker Contest!

Her submission has earned her a 3-credit tuition waiver and everlasting glory. Stickers will be made from her design to be handed out this summer.

Student Showcase Features Top Work

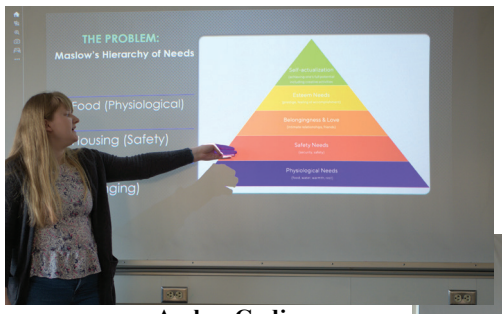
By Gem Nelson

On Saturday, April 5, students gathered on campus for the Student Showcase event. This showcase lets students present projects and papers that earned an 'A' grade. It was a chance for everyone to see the excellent work students are doing on campus.

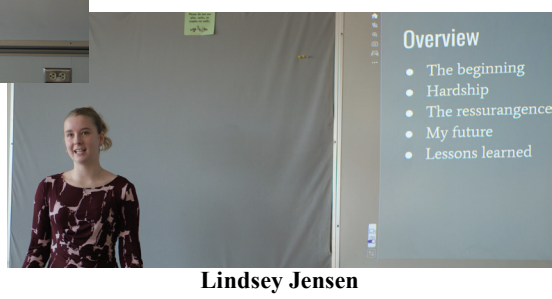
The presentations covered many different topics.

Lindsey Jensen talked about playing softball. She shared important life lessons she learned from the sport, like dealing with challenges and facing your fears. Her talk showed how

See **SHOWCASE** *page 11*

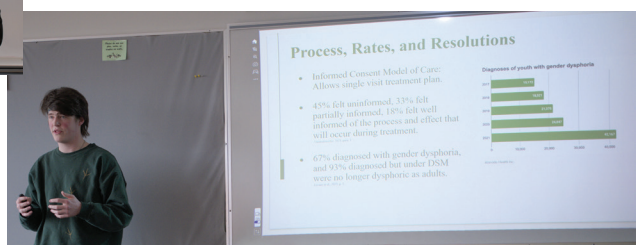


Amber Godin



Lindsey Jensen

Kenny Sparks and Justice Darby



Maddox Salmans

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Apply today at healthymatsu.org

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Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to matsu.monitor@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

Disclaimer

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor's weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

UA Students Bring Campus Concerns to State Capitol

By Gem Nelson

Students representing most campuses within the University of Alaska system traveled to Juneau in late February to meet directly with state legislators and advocate for issues vital to their education and university experience.

Representing the Mat-Su Campus were Amber Godin, the 2024-2025 Student Government Council president, and Yulia Barashkina, the 2025-2026 Student Government Council Vice-President They joined fellow students from across the state in bringing forward shared concerns.

The student delegation focused on making the case for increased support for the university system. Key topics included the need for stable and predictable tuition rates, fair compensation for university faculty and staff to attract and retain qualified employees, and dedicated funding to address a significant backlog of deferred maintenance on campus buildings across the state.

During their time in the capital, students shared personal stories and data with lawmakers, explaining how legislative decisions on funding directly impact classroom resources, campus safety, and the overall quality of their education. They emphasized the importance of investing in higher education for the future of Alaska.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage in the legislative process and ensure their perspectives are considered as lawmakers shape the state's budget and policies affecting the University of Alaska.

Alaska State Capitol building in Juneau where MSC Student Government representatives met with lawmakers to discuss the future of Alaska universities.

Students Step Back in Time at Roaring Twenties Cafeteria Dance

By Gem Nelson

The campus cafeteria took on a Jazz Age ambiance recently as students gathered for a special 1920s-themed dance. Held from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM on Friday, April 11, the event offered attendees a unique chance to socialize and step back a century.

The spirit of the Roaring Twenties was enthusiastically embraced, with nearly all of the approximately 37 students in attendance arriving in period-appropriate attire. Flapper dresses, headbands, fedoras, and suspenders were popular choices, transforming the familiar dining hall into a scene reminiscent of a bygone era. For those who did not have their own Jazz Age attire, participant Sharon Peek lent out items from her own collection of vintage clothing.

In the lead up to the dance, Student Government arranged for the same Sharon to offer a lunch-hour lesson on how to perform the Charleston dance.

While the setting for the dance was the everyday campus cafeteria, the theme and the students' commitment to it created a distinct atmosphere for the evening. Students had to enter the cafeteria by passing through a fabric wall decorated as if it was the exterior of a speakeasy.

Inside, students danced, drank mocktails, ate, played trivia, and enjoyed a round of the game What Do You Meme?

Keeping the dancers energized, refreshments and catering were provided throughout the event by Homestyle Plus, the college's own cafeteria vendor.

If you want to plan future dances or events, consider joining the MSC Student Government Council. Joining is as easy as stopping by one of the weekly meetings or the Student Government Office!

04 SEMESTER SCHEDULES

Summer Schedule 2025 May 19 - August 2

ANTHROPOLOGY
*Alaska Native Cultures

ART
Two-Dimentional Design
*Art Appreciation
Introduction to Art Education
*History of Western Art I

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Business Foundations

CHEMISTRY
*General Chemistry I & Lab
*General Chemistry II & Lab
*Intro to Organic/Biochemistry
Chem Skills & Problem Solving

ECONOMICS
*Principles of Macroeconomics

GEOGRAPHY
*Intro to Global Geography

GEOLOGY
*Planet Earth

HISTORY
*Western Civilization I
*Western Civilization II
*History of United States
*History of Alaska

HUMAN SERVICES
Selected Topics

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
*Elementary Statistics
Intermediate Algebra

MEDICAL ASSISTING
Essentials of Human Disease
Your Health & Social Services Career

PHILOSOPHY
*Introduction to Philosophy
*Intro to Logic

PSYCHOLOGY
*Lifespan Development
*Intro to Psychology
Psychology of Sex & Gender

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
*College Algebra for Calculus
Elementary Algebra
*Art of Mathematics

SOCIOLOGY
*Introduction to Sociology

VETERINARY ASSISTING
Veterinary Assistant Practicum

WRITING
*Writing & the Professions
*Writing Across Contexts

This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click "Course Schedules" for the most up-to date schedule.

**Indicates class meets GER requirements*

Fall Schedule 2025 August 25 - December 13

ACCOUNTING
Income Tax Preparation
Introduction to CompAccounting
Principles of Financial Accounting I
Principles of Financial Accounting II
Principles of Managerial Accounting

ANTHROPOLOGY
*Alaska Native Cultures

ART
*Art Appreciation
Beginning Drawing
Beginning Painting
Color Design
*History of Western Art II
Intermediate Drawing

AVIATION TECH/PROF PILOTING
Private Pilot Ground School

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
*Business Foundations
Business Law I
Intro to Nonprofit Management
Marketing Practices
Personal Selling
Survey of Finance

BIOLOGY
*Human Anatomy & Physiology I
*Human Anatomy & Physiology II
*Introductory Biology
*Introductory Biology Lab
Intro Microbiology for Health Sciences & Lab

CHEMISTRY
*Intro to General Chemistry & Lab
*General Chemistry I Lab
*General Chemistry II & Lab
Intro to Organic/Biochemistry

COMMUNICATION
*Fund Oral Communication
*Public Speaking
*Small Group Communication

COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC TECH
CCNA 1
CCNA 3
Computer Concepts in Business
Customer Service Fundamentals
Cyberops Associate
Industry Net Infrastructure
Industry PC Configuration Essentials
Industry Workplace Experience
IT Project Management
PC Operating Systems
PC Technician Fundamentals

ECONOMICS
*Prin of Macroeconomics
*Prin of Microeconomics

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Emergency Med Tech I
Paramedicine I Lab

ENGINEERING SCIENCE
Dynamics

ENGLISH
*Global Literature and Culture
Intro to Creative Writing
Technical Writing and Design

GEOGRAPHY
Discover Alaska Physical Geography

GEOLOGY
Planet Earth & Lab

HISTORY
*Europe in the Modern World
*History of U.S. I
*History of U.S. II
*Western Civilization Before 1650

HUMAN SERVICES
History of Systems of Change
Human Services and Disabilities
Substance Use Disorder

JUSTICE
*Intro to Criminal Justice
*Intro to Juvenile Justice
*Theories of Crime and Offense

LANGUAGES
*Elementary ASL
*Elementary Japanese I
*Intermediate Japanese I
*Elementary Spanish I
*Elementary Spanish II
Structure/Meanings of Language

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
*Calculus I
*Calculus II
*Calculus III
*Elementary Statistics
Intermediate Algebra

MEDICAL ASSISTING
Medical Terminology
Essentials of Human Disease
Your Health & Social Services Career

MUSIC
*Music Appreciation

PHILOSOPHY
*Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
*Intro to Logic
*Introduction to Philosophy

PHYSICS
*College Physics I & Lab
*General Physics I & Lab

POLITICAL SCIENCES
*Intro to American Government
*Intro to Political Science

PSYCHOLOGY
*Introduction to Psychology
*Lifespan Development

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
*College Algebra for Calculus
*Trigonometry

REFRIGERATION & HEATING
Refrig & AC I
Drain, Waist, Vent (DWV)
Electrical Circuit Refrig & Heat
Fundamentals of Heating
HVAC/R Codes
Plumbing Codes 1

SOCIAL WORK
***Intro to Social Welfare**

SOCIOLOGY
*Introduction to Sociology

VETERINARY ASSISTING
Intro to Veterinary Profession
Veterinary Office Procedures
Introduction to Small Animals
Handling & Behavior: Sm Animals

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
Pharmacology for Vet Techs
Small Animal Medicine
Veterinary Surgical Nursing & Lab
Vet Micro and Parasitology & Lab

WRITING
Intro to College Writing
*Writing Across Contexts
*Writing & the Professions
Writing and REading Strategies
*Writing & the Sciences
Accelerated Learning Program

This list is subject to change.
**Indicates class meets general education requirements (GERs). For the most up-to date list of classes visit our website at:*
matsu.alaska.edu

Mat-Su College Hosts Its Second Annual Out of the Darkness Walk

By Hank Jones

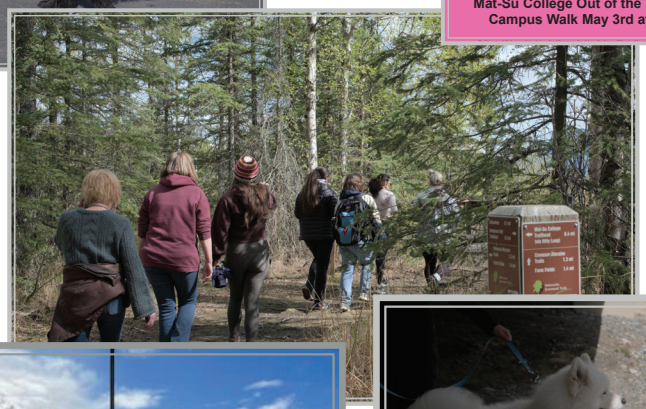
Mat-Su College and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the campus's second annual Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, May 3. Some 87 participants registered for the event. Together they raised over $6,000 for suicide prevention activities. (We must note that Mat-Su Valley Federal Credit Union made a generous donation of $1,000.)

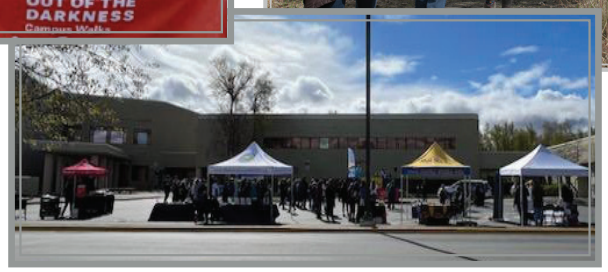
The event began with brief speeches, including a mother's testimony on the death of her son, a prayer, a singing of a national anthem, and a brief physical warm-up routine.

Then began the walk. While some walkers did four laps around the parking lot, more opted for the new "side quest" route, which took them through a mile of the Mat-Su College trail system.

After walkers made it back to the gathering point, they were free to grab free grilled cheese sandwiches provided by Alaska Grains Baking Company.

For more on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, see afsp.org. If you are in crisis, call or text 988.





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or 907.761.3495
907.761.3498
MSM@matsuk12.us
www.matsuk12.us/msm

Remember *continued from page 1*

for every part that goes into making the magic come alive. The sounds, lights, and I am fortunate enough to be one of the people working behind the scenes. In theater, safety is the number one priority no matter what. When you first start volunteering with the theater, they make sure you know every safety precaution there is, and for good reason. Something amazing and kind of scary about theater is that it is live in front of a crowd. There are no retakes or redos; you get one shot to do it and anything and everything can happen. It is very rare for everything that could possibly go wrong to all happen in one night, but that doesn't mean every night nothing goes wrong.

I have made my fair share of mistakes, but that shouldn't stop me from doing what I really love. The staff always makes me feel at home and that I offer help to them when they need it. It can be challenging to balance interests with college and that has discouraged me in the past, but then I always remember that college would probably be harder on me if I didn't have my passions. The answer isn't to drop everything and dedicate your life to college (although it sometimes feels that way) but to rather remember that the reason you're going to college is to pursue something bigger and the simple joys that help push us to them.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed throughout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost
3" by 3"	$75
5" by 5"	$125
7" by 7"	$175
Full page	$300
Full page, back	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

Need Money for college?

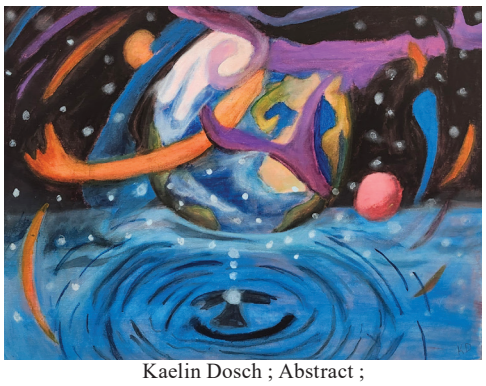
Mat-Su College Financial Aid is here to help!!

-THE FAFSA APPLICATION
-SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
-STUDENT LOANS
-TROUBLESHOOTING
-SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY ADVISING
-VETERANS SERVICES

If you have any questions, please scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/3fsv5w58 to find contact information or to make an appointment with a Mat-Su College financial aid advisor.

Aeschylus Hanson ; Still Life Dm's Desk ;
Intermediate Painting

Molly Gumley ; Smoking Shrimp ;
Intermediate Painting



Kaelin Dosch ; Abstract ;
Beginning Painting

Helayna Godfrey ; Reflective Surfaces study ;
Beginning Watercolor

Sage Ivey ; Arctic Landscape ; Beginning Painting

Jon Fischer ; Abstract ; Beginning Painting

Edward Hillard ; Landscape ; Beginning Painting

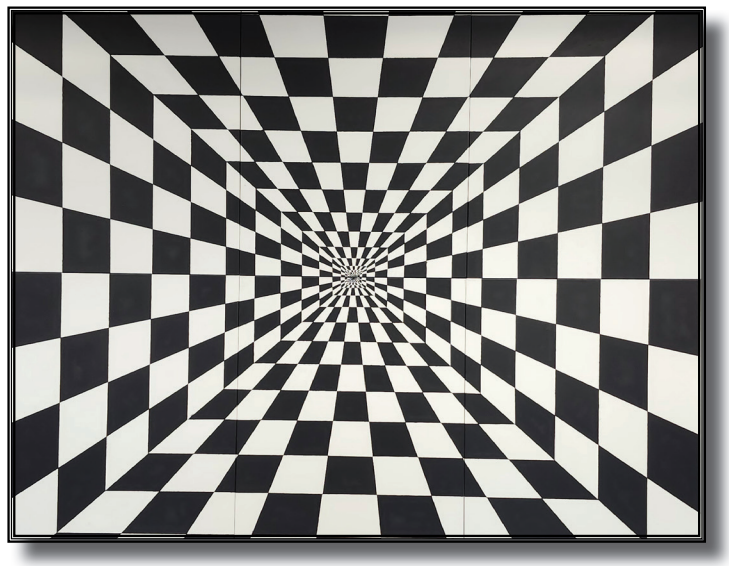
Zorina Sugiura-Peterson ; Landscape ;
Beginning Painting

Kaylan Ronne ; Teeth ; Beginning Painting

Molly Althens ; Still life ; Beginning Watercolor

Milly Gumley ; Why Can't Anyone Get Off the Ski Lift
Right? ; Intermediate Painting

Mat-Su College Fine Arts Department presented Advanced Painting students showcasing cohesive series based on their personal concepts—ranging from the poetic to the provocative. Meanwhile, Intermediate and Beginning Painting students presented their final works of the semester, reflecting deep exploration of technique, color, composition, and concepts.



Mat-Su Monitor
Summer2025

Students Chalk FSM Walkway in Support of Survivors

By Gem Nelson

During the last week of April, students and passers-by covered the walkway outside the FSM building entrance with messages of support against sexual violence. The "Chalk the Walk" event provided a space for the campus community to express solidarity and raise awareness during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Buckets of chalk were made available throughout the week, inviting anyone to contribute. Participants wrote messages including "Listen, believe, support," "stop blaming victims," "You don't own my body," and "In this together!" Some messages also included broader calls to action like "Smash patriarchy and also capitalism."

Despite facing rain and some minor vandalism, the chalk messages endured on the pavement through the week. The event offered a visible way for individuals to stand against sexual violence and show support for those affected. April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

You have access to five free counseling sessions with Kirklin Kinney, LPC, ADCII, PS—a licensed counselor with 17 years of experience helping individuals just like you succeed academically and personally. His background includes Addictions Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Crisis Intervention, and more. He's also a veteran and active community member, which brings cultural awareness and real-life perspective to his work.

When you meet with Kirklin, you'll get:

•A supportive partner to help you set and reach your goals

•Tools to manage stress, anxiety, or overwhelm

•Strategies for staying focused, motivated, and organized

•A judgment-free space to talk through whatever you're facing—big or small

Kirklin is here to encourage, empower, validate, and help you develop strategies for overcoming challenges and moving forward. He believes in your Capability, Courage, Connection, and Count—what he calls the "Crucial C's."

College is an exciting and challenging time. Whether you're adjusting to a new routine, managing life roles, or just need someone to talk to, these sessions are a valuable resource for your success

Make the most of your five sessions—schedule with Kirklin today. For more information and to schedule an appointment visit: https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-services/counseling-services.cshtml

Volunteers Spruce Up Campus in Spring Cleanup

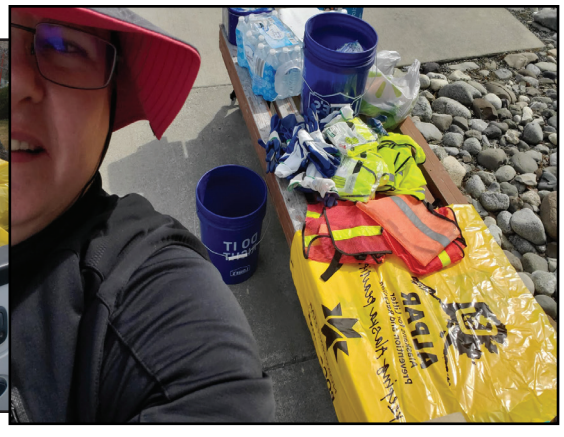
By Gem Nelson

A team of students and employees dedicated a Wednesday afternoon to tidying up the campus grounds. Eleven volunteers participated in an annual Earth Day cleanup event on April 23rd, successfully clearing trash from six different areas of the college campus.

Coordinated by Adjunct Professor Joey Pavia-Jones, the group managed to fill an entire truck bed with collected refuse. The volunteers gathered typical litter like paper and plastic, but also removed larger debris, including several sheets of metal. Very little (if any) of the trash was intentionally thrown into the woods or lawn. Instead, much of it seemed to have been blown onto campus. For instance, the large metal pieces had blown off the campus water tower during a significant windstorm back in January 2022.

To ensure safety and comfort during the cleanup, participants were provided with protective gloves and safety jackets. Snacks were also available to keep the volunteers energized as they worked to beautify the campus environment.

Regardless of the cleanup, students, employees, and the public are always encouraged to explore the campus and its grounds. Thanks to our physical plant crew and our night janitor, we are confident to say we work and study at one of the tidiest places in the valley!



Congratulations to our 2024-2025 graduates!

This is a list of summer 2024, fall 2024, spring 2025, and summer 2025 graduates. It is current as of April 29.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Elementary Education (UAS)

Cathy Lee Evans

Jeanne Ewart

Kristine Toms

Hidi VanKooten

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Natural Science (UAA)

Steffany Willhauck

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Katie Everett

Wade Hastings

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Accounting

Kaitlynn Bennett

Leah Canale

Sandra Hodge

Faith Poglitsh

Computer Systems and Networking Technology

Rebecca Mothershead

Zachary Mueller

Rebecca Straughn

Cade Tuttle

General Business

Magarren Elibee

Heidi Linder

Benny Markos

Brayden Root

Juliana White

Health Information Management

Jenna Buck (UAS)

Human Services

Jessica Wright

Refrigeration and Heat Technology

James Smith

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

General Program

Molly Althens

Timothy Bauer

Hans Beiler

Nona Bird

Kamila Carnahan

Katelynn Chapman

BonnieJean Christensen

Hanna Clark

Jonathan Cuddy

Savanna Davis

Elaine Ganchenko

Avery Gayman

Wyatt Guidry

Sophia Harper

Rosalia Hennemann

Jordan Hracha

Sammy Keovilayhong

Levi Kilburn

Carston Lee

Paige Marshall

Joann Oliver

Chantel Pacheco

Addison Stepchinski

Emily Stocker

Abby Strobel

Nicholas Thatcher

Kiana Vesel

Savana Zoerb

OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATE

Bookkeeping

Anastasiia Kalmykova (UAA)

Cisco Certified Network Associate

Jorge Calvo

Jacob Carrell

Dianah Ojwanga

Refrigeration and Heating

Rourke Asselin

Jorge Calvo

Robert Six

Veterinary Assisting

Marshall Fisher

Clarissa Kruger

Dominick Lutz

Gabriel Maddaloni

Amanda Towne

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, submit it anonymous at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor or in the Ask Sophia box in the FSM front lobby.

Q. Dear Sophia: I am feeling very stressed during midterms. How do I cope with this? Do you have any tips for studying? Thanks! - Feeling Messy During Midterms

A. Dear Friend: Ah well, if you are a fellow procrastinator, hopefully you've been keeping up with your studies throughout the semester. It's a good idea to have several study sessions leading up to the test rather than pulling an all-nighter cramming the night before, leaving you exhausted for the big day. Studying with classmates can also have the benefit of destressing. Remember to give your brain a break occasionally. Get plenty of rest the night before. Fuel your body with a good meal and be on time for the test.

Q. Dear Sophia: I am having trouble dealing with unfriendly classmates and being misunderstood.

A.Dear Friend: The best approach is to simply ignore them. When you engage them, remain neutral, don't let their behavior bother you and act professionally at all times. You can't control the behavior of others but you can control how you respond. Most bullies are looking to get a rise out of you; rob them of that by refusing to be bothered by their behavior. I mean, shrug it off, just keep doing what you're doing, and remember that they don't have any power over you whatsoever. You can also try building a positive relationship with one of your other classmates outside of class, then you will have an ally.

Q. Dear Sophia: My dad won't let me drive alone (Middle College) even though I have my license. Now I am here past 9:00 pm about an hour since class got out.

A. Dear Friend: Let's just start with having a chat. Ask him why you can't drive on your own. Try this while remaining calm, and don't be like, "Well, my sister does, why can't I?" Once you have listened to his side, ask if he is willing to make an agreement. If it's about insurance, you may need to get a job in or out of the home to start paying for it. His insurance rates go up if you get into an accident. Cars aren't cheap, and neither is insurance, gas, or maintenance.

Are you allowed to drive while he is in the front seat? If not, inquire about the possibility of driving to school and back once a week. This way he can get a sense of your driving skills and feel more confident in your ability to handle the road.

If you already passed this stage, try another agreement. Try asking if you could be allowed to use the car once a week to go to school or for little short trips like shopping. If you can get him to agree with this and you drive safely, then sooner or later you'll be driving alone more often. Then again… sometimes you just have to wait them out. It's their car; they have a right to decide who is driving it.

Q. Dear Sophia: Passed my math!

A.Dear Friend: Way to go! Give yourself a big high-five for a job well done. Now…enjoy the summer.

Q. Dear Sophia: People keep calling me "little" and "adorable" What should I do? – Small

A.Dear Friend: I say, Own it! You can be those things, but you can also be fierce and confident. What others think of you is a them issue. When you own it, you take away the power they are trying to assert—if that is what they are doing. Hey, at least they're not calling you "scaly" and "stinky"! Oh yeah, and maybe change your signature to "Large & In Charge."

Q. Dear Sophia: Your statue in the atrium is so cool. – Your UAF Friends

A.Dear Friends: Awww schucks. Go Arctic Dragons!

DEM BONES

A	L	L	E	T	A	P	D	I	O	H	P	I	X	R
M	S	P	I	N	E	L	B	I	D	N	A	M	O	A
A	G	R	E	C	T	C	O	N	C	H	A	T	L	S
X	M	L	I	E	H	L	A	P	R	A	C	U	U	T
I	M	B	A	A	M	L	S	I	B	U	P	C	A	I
L	S	B	M	D	O	A	E	R	D	A	N	L	T	L
L	U	A	E	Z	I	R	O	B	C	I	U	T	A	I
A	T	I	N	Y	D	O	A	S	R	S	S	S	C	U
E	A	S	T	G	C	P	L	R	T	E	A	T	K	M
F	R	T	A	O	O	M	U	U	U	N	M	L	A	E
I	D	E	L	M	C	E	M	L	S	M	I	O	Y	L
B	A	R	I	A	C	T	B	O	N	U	E	O	V	R
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A	O	M	O	C	C	I	P	I	T	A	L	N	E	S

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _

Showcase *continued from page 2*

sports can help you grow as a person. Afterwards, a member of the audience shared the insightful comment that school extracurriculars -- at risk of cuts -- are critically important to creating well-rounded individuals.

Maddox Salmans presented an opinion piece they wrote about gender-affirming care. His 'A' grade paper clearly used statistics and quotations to make a for-or-against argument about gender-affirming care. It made people think and discuss the topic.

Amber Godin focused on helping the community. She explained her project with the MatSu Food Bank. Her work created a way to bring food donations directly to campus, helping students who don't have enough food. This project also received an 'A'.

Finally, Justice Darby and Kenny Sparks talked about seemingly all the hard sciences. They are getting ready for a summer program. As part of it, they will travel to Virginia to send their own experimental contraption into space on a NASA rocket. This device will help measure gravity (or something -- scientific understanding eludes this writer).

(The fifth scheduled presenter did not show up.)

Once the presentations were done, the Student Showcase committee adjourned to pick this year's winners, who all earned prizes ranging from a tuition waiver to gift cards. During this intermission a catered lunch was served.

The Student Showcase was a big success. It featured impressive student work on many subjects -- sports, social issues, community help, and science. The event clearly showed the talent and hard work of Mat-Su students who earned top grades.

This year's student work will eventually be able to be viewed at https://matsu.alaska.edu/academics/student-showcase.cshtml. Previous years' student work is already posted there.

The Monitor thanks the student presenters and the Student Showcase committee for helping to arrange such a fantastic event.

Fair Cabin *continued from page 1*

J.H. : I taught that class for over 30 years, at both UAA and then the Mat-Su Community College, as an adjunct. I built several cabins for both campuses: I built the Mat-Su College cabin at the Alaska State Fair, and I built two large cabins at UAA, one of which became the Native Welcome Center. It isn't there anymore though.

Monitor: That is sad! How did you build the Mat-Su college cabin, and how long did it take?

J.H. : Ten students and I built it. We built it solely on weekends and finished it in 1982. We built it out of local wood from the area.

Monitor: Besides the Mat-Su cabin at the Alaska State Fair, and the two cabins at UAA what other cabins did you build?

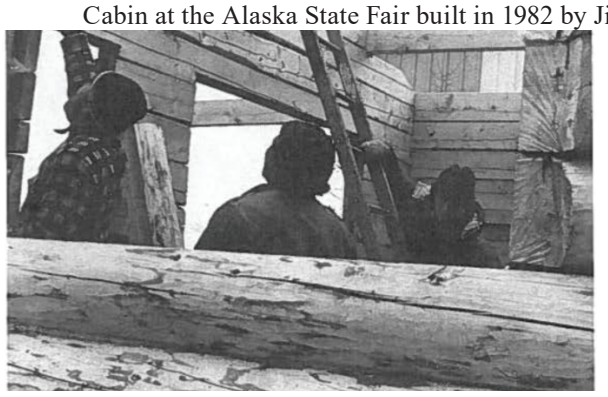
J.H. : I built several cabins at the Alaska State Fair. I built the six log cabin food stands near the rides, and another log cabin at the north entrance to the fair. There was a time when a new fair manager came into the position, and wanted to update the fair by getting rid of these log cabin food stands. The people who went to the fair and liked the log cabin food stands got upset and refused to let the fair manager do such a thing! [laughs]

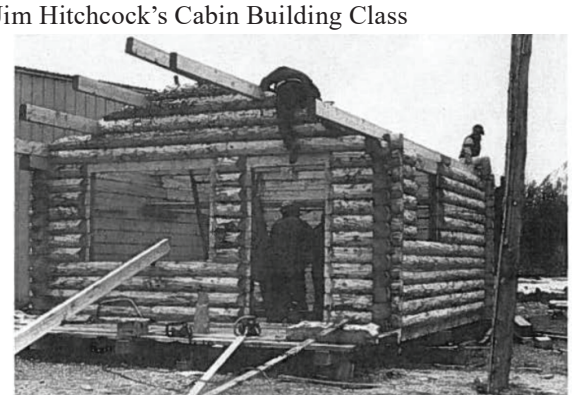
Monitor: It is good to know the community has your back! Those log cabin food stands have some of my favorite food items in the entire fair. How did you learn how to make log cabins in the first place?

J.H. : My family were homesteaders, and in 1943, moved to Alaska. My dad was a cabin builder, and I helped him ever since I was ten years old. In 1957, my dad passed away while building a log cabin for the Girl Scouts. After I got out of the Army, by 1960, I finished the Girl Scouts cabin by dad had started. I also took on a partner who helped me draw up the floor plans. That was the first log cabin I ever built. The last log cabin I ever built, or ever will build, is my own house. It is almost finished!

Monitor: How amazing it must be to say that you have built your own house! Thank you so much for your time, Mr. Hitchcock.

Cabin at the Alaska State Fair built in 1982 by Jim Hitchcock's Cabin Building Class





Alaska Wilderness Studies 190: 3 Credits
Hands-on techniques and skills of log cabin construction. Covers planning and organization, estimating costs, and major phases of log building construction including foundation, floor, walls, roof and windows, doors and trim.

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